

May the Lord bring you peace!

The Friars Minor Conventual in Venice **welcome all of you to the Basilica dedicated to "Glorious St. Mary"** with the traditional Franciscan greeting of peace and all good. Walking down the aisles of this simple and elegant Gothic Franciscan church you will find yourself surrounded by extraordinary works of art that reach back through eight centuries of history, faith and devotion at this Shrine. The contemplation of so much beauty – the divine spark – accompanied by the spiritual intimacy of this holy place can fill one with a sense of peace and serenity. **We wish you an intensely enjoyable visit.**

A Franciscan Church

The Frari Basilica – after St. Mark's Basilica – is one of the most enchanting religious complexes in Venice, and one of Italy's most important Franciscan sites. As evidenced by the numerous pictorial and sculptural representations of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Anthony



of Padua, this church has been looked after by Franciscan friars since its founding – hence the name "Frari". The friars first came to Venice shortly after 1220.

Around the year 1231, a church and a convent were built on land donated to the friars. These were soon deemed to be of inappropriate size. On April 28th, 1250 the Pope's delegate, Cardinal Ottaviano Ubaldini, laid the foundation stone of the second church dedicated to "Santa Maria Gloriosa".

Around 1330, given the increasing flow of pilgrims, the friars commissioned the construction of a third, larger church: the current Basilica, which was consecrated in 1492.

Over the centuries the Basilica has been endowed with unique and priceless masterpieces that take the visitor on a journey through the history of art and devotion from the 13th to the 20th century.

Among Marian devotion and Franciscan spirituality

The veneration of Mary

The veneration of Mary is a typical trait of Franciscan spirituality. It is for this reason that the Basilica's three most beautiful paintings are dedicated to her. The biggest is the altarpiece of the *Assumption of the Virgin*, painted by Titian, and defined by Canova as the most beautiful picture in the world.

Since the painting was put in place – on May 19th, 1518 – the vast presbytery, where it is still located, **has been lit by a divine light.** The second painting by Titian is dedicated to the *Madonna di Ca' Pesaro* and it was painted between 1519 and 1526. This work is considered a masterpiece due to its brilliant use of perspective, the splenderness of the colours, the perfection of the design and the expressive power of the portraits. The third artwork can be



seen in the sacristy. Set in a beautiful inlaid wooden frame by Jacopo da Faenza, the visitor's gaze is drawn to the beautiful triptych of 1488 by Giovanni Bellini. Other valuable paintings dedicated to Mary can be found in: The Chapter House: *Madonna with Child* by Paolo Veneziano (1339); The Chapel of the Franciscan Saints: *Madonna with Child* (1535) masterpiece by Bernardino Licinio; The Bernard Chapel: *Madonna Enthroned* (1487) by Bartolomeo Vivarini.

Music in the Basilica

The two prestigious organs by Callido and Paggia, installed at the sides of the wooden choir, confirm the importance that sacred music has always had in this Basilica. You can appreciate the singular acoustics of the place during the frequent **choral and organ concerts** performed here. For information on upcoming musical events please ask at the entrance or consult the web site of the Basilica.

VISITING HOURS

From Monday to Saturday: 9am - 6pm
Sunday and public holiday: 1pm - 6pm
(last admittance 30 minutes before closing time)

Visiting hours may vary according to liturgical celebrations

VISITING FEE

Children up to 11 years: free entrance

The visiting fee contributes to the maintenance of the Basilica

**PRAYER TIMES OF THE FRIARS AND PARISH COMMUNITY**

Weekdays: 7.50am Daily Office Readings and Morning Prayer
8.30am; 6.30pm Mass

Day before Holidays: 6.30pm Mass
Sundays and holidays: 9am; 10.30am; 12midday; 6.30pm Mass

Eucharistic Adoration:
Thursday from 7pm to 8pm

Confessions: Wednesday and Friday
from 5pm to 6.30pm

CONTACT AND INFORMATION

Basilica of S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari
Friars Minor Conventual
San Polo 3072 - 30125 VENEZIA

www.basilicadeifrari.it
facebook.com/basilicadeifrari

Basilica of Santa Maria Gloriosa dei FRARI Friars Minor Conventual

*Eight centuries
of art and faith*
Welcome





Itinerary with audioguide

Make your visit more engaging and interesting with an audio guide that will accompany you as you discover the paintings, sculptures and monuments in a clear way. The tour lasts about 35 minutes and takes you to the most interesting places in the Basilica. Available in 7 languages.

In the official guide of the Frari Basilica the most interesting works of art are presented in a precise way. A book enriched with over 60 photos and details of all the most important masterpieces. Available in 6 languages.



The Frari Basilica is a historic monument, but it is first and foremost a church, a sacred place welcoming the prayers and liturgical celebrations of Catholic diocesan and parish communities. Visitors are asked to respect the characteristics of the site and to behave and dress appropriately. Thank you for your kind attention.

Enter into a treasure trove of beauty, harmony and simplicity

- 1 **INTRODUCTION**
- 2 **THE ASSUMPTION**, 1516-1518
Tiziano Vecellio
- 3 **ST. MARK AND SAINTS**, 1474
Bartolomeo Vivarini
- 4 **ST. AMBROSE AND SAINTS**, 1503
Alvise Vivarini – Marco Basaiti
TOMB OF CLAUDIO MONTEVERDI
- 5 **ST. MICHAEL**, XV century
Venetian art
- 6 **ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**, 1438
Donatello
- 7 **MADONNA ENTHRONED WITH CHILD**, 1487
Bartolomeo Vivarini
- 8 **MADONNA WITH CHILD AND SAINTS**, 1488
Giovanni Bellini
- 9 **MADONNA WITH CHILD**, 1339
Paolo Veneziano
- 10 **WOODEN CHOIR**, 1468
Marco and Francesco Cozzi
- 11 **MONUMENT TO TITIAN**, 1843-1852
Luigi, Pietro and Andrea Zandomenighi
- 12 **MONUMENT TO CANOVA**, 1822-1827
Students of Canova
- 13 **MADONNA CA' PESARO**, 1519-1526
Tiziano Vecellio

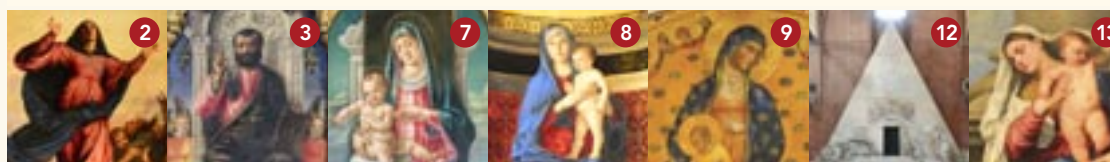
Visit guidelines

- ✓ Advance bookings are recommended for group visits.
- ✓ Visits are not allowed during liturgical celebrations.
- ✓ It is not permitted to take photos with flash or video footage.



- Presbytery
- Sacristy
- Chapter room
- Cloister
- Wooden choir
- Bell tower

● In red the artworks explained in the audio guide



Other major artworks

- 14 **CRUCIFIX ALTAR**, 1672
Baldassare Longhena, Giusto Le Court
- 15 **MONUMENT TO DOGE GIOVANNI PESARO**, 1660-1669
B. Longhena, M. Barthel, B. Falcone
- 16 **ST. PETER'S CHAPEL ALTAR**, 1432
Workshop of Dalle Masegne
- 17 **THE FRANCISCAN TREE**, 1670
Pietro Negri
- 18 **MADONNA WITH FRANCISCAN SAINTS**, 1535
Bernardino Licinio
- 19 **CRUCIFIX**, XIII century
- 20 **MONUMENT TO DOGE NICOLÒ TRON**, ab. 1476
Antonio Rizzo
- 21 **MONUMENT TO DOGE FRANCESCO FOSCARI**, ab. 1457
Niccolò di Giovanni Fiorentino
- 22 **SACRAMENT CHAPEL**
Reserved for personal prayer
- 23 **RELIQS ALTAR**, 1711
F. Penso called "Cabianca" and A. Brustolon
- 24 **MONUMENT TO JACOPO MARCELLO**, 1488
Giovanni Buora
- 25 **MARTYRDOM OF ST. CATHERINE OF ALEXANDRIA**, 1590-1595
Jacopo Palma il Giovane
- 26 **ST. JOSEPH OF COPERTINO IN ECSTASY**, 1753
Giuseppe Nogari
- 27 **ST. JEROME**, 1564
Alessandro Vittoria
- 28 **PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**, 1550-1560
Giuseppe Porta called Salviati
- 29 **ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**, 1450
Giacomo Di Caterino
- 30 **MIRACLES OF ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA**, 1603
Flaminio Floriani